

2006-2007 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

High Priority Issues

1. **Expansion of Property Tax Lid Lift Authority from One Year Up to Six Years for Special Purpose Districts.** This is the WFCOA number one priority for the 2007 legislative session. The WFCOA will be proposing legislation to amend current statutes to include special purpose districts in multi-year lid lift authority currently provided to cities and counties only. This legislation will provide up to six year authority with a declared growth factor set by the fire district in ballot language.
2. **Volunteer Firefighter Property Tax Credit/Exemptions from Portion of State Property Tax with Five Years of Service or More.** WFCOA will propose legislation to recognize volunteer firefighters for dedicated service by exempting them from paying state property tax. This is a volunteer recruit and retention issue. WFCOA legislative representatives are working with various state agencies to address constitutional and legal issues.
3. **Increase Public Works Bid Limits from \$2,500 up to \$10,000, prior to bid.** WFCOA will propose legislation to increase public works bid limits from \$2,500 up to \$10,000. This limit has not been changed in over 15 years.
4. **Volunteer Firefighter Pension Service Credit.** WFCOA will propose legislation to allow volunteer firefighters to purchase service credit for years of service where an individual or district did not contribute to the BVFF pension.
5. **Memorial to United States Congress Urging Passage of Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Exemption for Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Throughout the United States.** WFCOA will propose for consideration in 2007 session. There will be numerous federal legislative proposals. This is an effective way to send a positive message to our congressional delegation.
6. **Fire Commissioner Board Authority to Increase from 5 to 7.** The WFCOA will introduce legislation to provide authority for fire districts to expand from five members to seven members with voter approval. A position paper will be available after the draft has been introduced.
7. **Commissioner Compensation Adjustment.** The special district lobbyist/association caucus will be introducing an adjustment in special district per diem compensation from the current \$70.00 per day, \$6,720 maximum per year, to \$90.00 per day with a \$8,640 per year maximum. WFCOA supports this legislative proposal.

8. **Flame Retardants.** The WFCA will continue to oppose the ban of DECA flame retardant due to the public policy concerns of fire hazards and because (DECA) has not been proven to be harmful to humans. This is a life safety issue and will be a hotly debated issue with environmental groups.

Other Issues

- **Election Date Changes.** WFCA will be closely monitoring the county auditor proposal to eliminate the March and April special election dates. WFCA legislative representatives will continue review with all affected state and local governments.
- **Public Pension Issues LEOFF 2.** The WFCA will continue to monitor all pension issues and review any financial impacts which may occur.
- **Growth Management Issues.** The WFCA will monitor all GMA legislation and take appropriate measures to mitigate any impacts on fire districts. WFCA will continue to advocate in favor of all citizens' right to vote on all annexations through the referendum process.
- **State Agency Legislation.** The WFCA will continue to monitor and take appropriate positions on all legislation from state agencies such as:
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - State Auditor
 - State Patrol
 - Department of Revenue
- **Funded Regional Hazardous Materials Teams.** WFCA supports funding for hazardous materials clean up and response by local governments.
- **Unfunded Mandates.** The WFCA will continue to oppose all unfunded mandates proposed through legislative proposals introduced during the 2007 legislative session.

NOTE: The first legislative report will be posted on the WFCA website on Friday, January 19th. The website address is www.wfca.wa.gov.